APPENDIX V.

(Vide item No. VI on page 29 supra.)

Address by Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, to the Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly and Council assembled together at the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at 12 *noon on Monday, the* 1st *August* 1955.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislature,

Allow me to extend my welcome and greetings to you when you have assembled once again after only a short recess, for a busy legislative session, and wish you success in your arduous labours. Before proceeding further and announcing the work that awaits you, I should like to offer on your behalf and on mine, our tribute of gratitude and admiration to our Prime Minister, for his sustained and valiant efforts in the cause of international peace and goodwill. He, as you know, toured through many countries during the last few weeks, and has now come back to us, having won great laurels for himself on behalf of us all, and having spread the message of our ancient land far and wide. The principles embodied in *Pancha Shila*—the five cardinal principles of co-existence—are being recognized and accepted by many peoples on many continents, as the result of his devoted labours. We should like to record our deep appreciation of the services that he has rendered in raising the stature of our country, and enabling our voice to be heard effectively in the counsels of the nations of the world.

2. Hon'ble Members will doubtless have learnt that the President has appointed the Hon'ble Speaker of our Legislative Assembly, Shri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai, to be a Member of the Union Public Service Commission. He has an impressive record of public service to his credit; and for the last nine years, he has acted as the Speaker of our Assembly. During this long period, he has firmly maintained the dignity of the House, and jealously guarded its rights and privileges. He has endeared himself to all Members by his sympathetic understanding of their difficulties, and his ever-ready willingness to help them in every possible way. He has always guided the proceedings of the House to the admiration and satisfaction of everyone, and unstintingly placed his great knowledge of constitutional law, custom and procedure at our disposal. He will be joining his duties at Delhi in about a fortnight's time. We shall very greatly miss his familiar figure in the familiar place in the Chair; and I should like to assure him on your behalf and on mine, that we shall always remember him,

and trust he too will not forget us. He carries with him our warmest good wishes in his new sphere of useful public activity, and we have every confidence that he will distinguish himself there by his love of justice and fairplay, as he has done so amply here.

3. We note with considerable satisfaction that our friends in Andhra have re-established stable parliamentary Government. This is of special significance to us, because we have yet to settle certain common problems, more particularly the one relating to the adjustment of a mutually acceptable boundary; and this is negotiated best with a Government which commands the full confidence of Andhra public opinion. A direct approach has been made suggesting that the border question may be taken up immediately on the basis of the population of the disputed villages as reported in the 1951 census. The response has been encouraging, and with goodwill and mutual understanding, we may hope to resolve this issue to the satisfaction of the largest number of the people affected on either side.

4. Seasonal conditions have been fair so far. The South-West Monsoon has commenced in time, and our irrigation reservoirs have received an initial replenishment. Let us hope and trust that the present favourable turn will continue, and that we would be blessed with another good agricultural year. We are also greatly relieved to find that agricultural prices are again looking up, and that the earlier apprehensions of an imminent slump, have luckily not proved true.

5. We are indeed happy that commendable harmony prevails amongst the different classes and shades of political opinion in the State; and this is reflected satisfactorily in the Law and Order situation. The agrarian problem takes an acute form, from time to time, in isolated pockets, and the Government are proposing measures for a lasting solution of the same. A Bill to ban the eviction of cultivating tenants and to restore their tenancies to persons evicted in the recent past, is coming up for your consideration immediately. This will be followed by another measure to fix fair rents for tenants in all the districts. In implementing the intentions of the Government on the fixation of a ceiling on the possession of land and other connected matters, certain constitutional difficulties have been pointed out, and these are under examination. The Government are well aware that a satisfactory settlement of these problems, is an essential part of a welfare State which we are all anxious to establish; and with your co-operation, all impediments in the way will, it is hoped, be speedily removed.

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6. Land reforms alone, however, will not take us far in helping us to shed the inherited poverty of ages and ensure a socialistic pattern of society. The most urgent task before us is to implement a second and more ambitious Five-Year Plan based on the economy built up with anxious care, during the period of the current Plan. In preparing this second Plan, it is the intention of the Government to give an opportunity to the people of every village to frame their own plan •for the village. Special staff has been appointed in the districts of Malabar, Coimbatore, Salem, Chingleput, Ramnad and the Nilgiris for assisting District Collectors to prepare village, municipal and district plans in consultation with the people of every village. With the experience gained in these districts, similar arrangements may be organized in the other districts as well. In the meanwhile, the Heads of Departments have drafted their respective departmental plans, wherein they have made provision for the anticipated recommendations of district planning bodies. The Government have made a preliminary scrutiny of the departmental estimates; and as was to be expected, this rough plan is somewhat oversized on the available resources. Representatives of the Government will be discussing the nature and extent of the Central assistance, with the Planning Commission, on the 12th and 13th of this month. After this discussion, a white paper embodying the proposals, will be placed for the consideration of this Legislature towards the end of the month. The Plan will be finalized only after Hon'ble Members have had an opportunity of discussing details and proposing modifications, consistent with our financial resources

7. Meanwhile, satisfactory progress is being made on all works covered by the first Plan. The budget for the year had anticipated an outlay of Rs. 26 crores on works in the State Plan, towards which a public loan of about Rs. 7 crores has just been advertised, and subscriptions to the same will commence on the 16th of this month. The target we have set is indeed high compared with similar issues by other States, but let us hope that with the enthusiastic co-operation of the public, we would reach it. It will have to be realized that the size of he second Plan will depend largely on the extent we can mobilize the peoples' savings towards the national effort. I appeal to you and to the people of this State whom you represent, to assist wholeheartedly in the drive, and make the venture a great success.

8. The major irrigation projects included in the Plan are all making encouraging progress. The Bhavani reservoir has been completed, and water will be available to a whole ayacut of 2 lakhs

of acres in the current season. The Malampuzha, Manimuthar and the Mettur Canal Schemes are expected to be completed during this financial year extending assured irrigation over another lakh of acres. Execution has also commenced on the Amaravathi, Vaigai, Sathanur and Krishnagiri projects, which will be carried forward into the new Plan. The progress of the minor irrigation programme is equally satisfactory. The storage in tanks had been improved hitherto by strengthening the bunds and raising the full-tank level wherever practicable. The Chief Engineer is now preparing a pilot scheme for the removal of the accumulated silt in tank-beds to neighbouring dry lands on the foreshore, so that the capacity of each tank may be increased and the soil of dry lands, enriched. If this experiment proves economic, the scheme may be extended generally. We can, however, hope to expand irrigation appreciably, only by diverting to our side, some of the surplus waters of the Western Ghats, now running to waste into the Arabian Sea. Let me hasten to reassure our friends across the Ghats, that it is not the intention of this Government to suggest the diversion of any waters which can be used for irrigation in the Travancore-Cochin State. This Government can also give them the necessary facilities to exploit the power potential of those waters or take up joint power-projects with them. Preliminary survey has disclosed that such diversion is possible in a few places in the high ranges, without any injury whatsoever to the people of Travancore-Cochin, and with considerable benefit to the economy of the country as a whole. The Government intend to pursue this issue and convince them of the reasonableness and usefulness of our request, so that some of these works may be taken up during the period of the second Plan.

9. On the side of electricity, the Madras Thermal Station has been further strengthened by one more 15,000 kilo-watt generator. With this addition, we have reached the target of 1,11,000 K.Ws. of new generation for the period of the current Plan. Execution has commenced on the Periyar Hydro-Electric project, and we hope to make a start with the Kundah project within this year. The rural electrification programme is also making encouraging progress.

10. Now that we have stabilised our food economy, the emphasis of the new Plan should rightly be on industrial development. The investigations we conducted at considerable cost, on the lignite deposits of Neiveli, may come in very useful in this connection. The main difficulty in the extraction of this mineral,

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is the presence of artesian waters under high pressure beneath the lignite layer. To cope with this problem, high-power pumps have been ordered from overseas, and are expected to be in position in the quarry by the middle of September. The erection of a new power station to operate these pumps, will also be completed by then. Our experts are confident that the new pumps can keep the artesian springs well under control; and this gives us hope that lignite can be extracted at economic cost. In the meanwhile the Government of India have assumed financial responsibility for the venture; and a multi-purpose project, costing about Rs. 60 crores for the development of power and several industries based on that power, is being drawn up. On the results of the pumping test we may hope to start the project at the very commencement of the new Plan. Other major industries actively considered for inclusion in the Plan, are the extraction of aluminium from the bauxite deposits in Salem, and a steel foundry for the fabrication of heavy machinery. We have also pressed on the Government of India our case for the location of their heavy electrical plant in this State. The Industries Department has drawn up an ambitious programme for the development of many medium, small scale and cottage industries, and this will come up for your consideration along with the new Plan.

11. The Community Development Projects and the National Extension Services now cover about a fourth of the rural population of the State. It is the intention of the Government to extend these beneficient measures over the whole State within the new Plan period. The setting up of an elaborate field organisation for this purpose, raises the issue whether we can afford two parallel organisations in the districts: one for development and the other for administration. Some measure of integration seems called for; and as an immediate start, it is proposed to make the Revenue Divisional Officer function as the Block Development Officer, and to limit the area of his jurisdiction. The Local Development Programme is becoming increasingly popular. The peoples' contribution has been substantial; and the demand for additional allotment is coming in from all the districts. The Government have recently enhanced this grant by about Rs. 1 crore so that the enthusiasm of the people towards improving their living conditions, might be sustained.

12. Public health is being maintained satisfactorily, and the State has been free from epidemics of any grave magnitude. The rural water-supply programme is being accelerated, and a new scheme of protected water-supply to groups of villages in the

Cauvery, Periyar, Vaigai and Tambraparani deltas has been recently sanctioned at a cost of about Rs. 120 lakhs. Urban water-supply schemes for the City of Madras and many of the major municipalities at a cost of about Rs. 2½ crores during this year, are also making appreciable progress.

13. The recommendations of the Committee on Rural Credit Survey for the reorganisation of co-operative credit and marketing are being examined by the Government. The Registrar has formulated comprehensive proposals for this State, and it is the intention of the Government to implement them as soon as the necessary Central financing organisations are set up so that our agriculturists may gain their release from the professional money-lender and learn to be self-reliant. A pilot scheme to serve two taluks in each of the districts of Malabar, South Kanara, Chingleput, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Ramnad, will be put into operation in the current year itself to gain practical experience of the working of the proposals.

14. In the field of elementary education, new schools are now being opened in every village with a population of 500 and more. Our further aim is to increase enrolment by about 40 per cent of the existing strength in the age group of 6 to 11; by cent per cent in the age group of 11 to 14, and by about 25 per cent in the age group of 14 to 17. This programme will be spread over the period of the second Plan, but it is necessary to train immediately a large number of teachers for employment from the beginning of the next academic year. Twenty new training schools and 5 new training colleges are being opened in the current year itself to meet the new demand. The "Bhoodan Movement" in aid of schools, inaugurated by the Chief Minister recently, is gaining momentum; and a Committee with Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, M.L.C., as Chairman, is being constituted to advise the Government on how this movement should be organised for the support of village schools. The diversified course of education is being newly introduced in 40 secondary schools from this academic year. An expert Committee is being constituted to take steps for the adoption of the regional language as the medium of instruction in colleges. On the side of medical education, the strength of the Madurai Medical College has been increased from 50 to 65 and that of the College of Indigenous Medicine, from 100 to 125, from this academic year.

15. The removal of the disabilities of Harijans and Backward communities continues to receive the attention of the Government. With the opening of elementary schools in all big villages, the

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necessity for special schools for Harijans has diminised. They will be encouraged to join common schools where they will receive all the existing concessions. With a view to induce children of all communities to join Harijan schools and thereby help in the free mixing of Harijans with other communities, it is proposed to supply mid-day meals to non-Harijan pupils attending Harijan Welfare Schools as an experimental measure in the North Arcot district. A new Harijan housing scheme has been sanctioned in the Madurai district with Government subsidy whereby 90 tiled houses each costing about Rs. 1,350 will be constructed in one colony, of which a few will be allotted to non-Harijans who volunteer to live side by side with Harijans. The Government are also considering other housing schemes for Harijans as a part of the general housing schemes for poorer classes. With a view to provide opportunities for employment to Harijans in industry and trade, it is proposed to appoint Welfare Officers in all districts, and a start has just been made in the industrial districts of Madurai and Coimbatore.

16. Besides Land legislation already referred to, the other legislative measures for consideration in this session are the following :—

(*a*) A Bill to replace Ordinance I of 1955 by which the Madras Tobacco Taxation Act, 1955, was amended to remove certain defects.

(*b*) A Bill to replace Ordinance II of 1955 which enabled the extension of the City Tenants Protection Act, 1921, to other municipal towns.

(*c*) A measure to levy a surcharge of 2 annas in the rupee on all land revenue, including water rates.

(*d*) A measure to consolidate the laws relating to money-lending in the State.

(*e*) Comprehensive amendments to the Madras General Sales Tax Act to remedy defects noticed in the working of the Act.

(*f*) Enabling legislation to acquire private forests in Malabar and South Kanara for the better conservation of these.

(*g*) A measure to regulate the cutting of trees and the cultivation of lands in hill stations.

(*h*) Amendments to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, to provide for a regular Government cadre for Municipal Commissioners.

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(*i*) Extension of the life of the Madras Building (Lease and Rent Control) Act of 1949.

(*j*) Amendments to the City Police Act and the Gaming Act, to prevent gambling in public streets on prices of New York Cotton and bullion markets, etc.

(*k*) A Bill to regulate the transfer and distribution of land donated as part of the Bhoodan Yagna Movement.

(*l*) A Resolution under Article 252 of the Constitution empowering Parliament to legislate imposing restrictions on the use of cross-word puzzles in gambling.''

17. I should like, before I close, to offer my grateful thanks to you for the uniform courtesy you have kindly always extended to me personally. I have every confidence that your deliberations carried on in a spirit of cordiality and tolerance, will result in decisions being taken that will prove to be of lasting benefit to the State and its People.